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CHALLENGERS OF THE UNKNOWN

APPROVED
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CODE
AUTHORITY

MAR.
NO. 30

A SENSATIONAL SURPRISE!
**"MULTI-MAN-VILLAIN
TURNED HERO!"**

IN HIS NEW FORM, **MULTI-MAN**
CAN DO ANYTHING! HE SEPARATED
HIS MOLECULES TO LET THE
SHELL PASS THROUGH HIM, AND
ELONGATED THEM TO
SEIZE PROF'S COPTER!



MULTI-MAN IS TAMED! GONE ARE THE MEMORIES AND MOTIVATIONS OF HIS CRIMINAL PAST! ONLY HIS GENIUS REMAINS, NOW TO BE USED FOR THE GOOD OF MANKIND! BUT WILL HIS DREAMS OF CONQUEST REMAIN DORMANT FOREVER--OR IS THERE A MENTAL TIME BOMB BUILT WITHIN...

MULTI-MAN **VILLAIN** **TURNED** **HERO**

CHALLENGERS **OF THE** **UNKNOWN**

IT'S **MULTI-MAN** IN HIS GIANT MOLECULAR FORM! THE MOLECULES SEPARATED SO THE SHELL WOULD PASS RIGHT THROUGH HIM!

MAN--HE'S REALLY FOUND THE ULTIMATE FORM THIS TIME! NOTHING CAN STOP HIM!

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CHALLENGERS OF THE UNKNOWN



IN A GREAT HOSPITAL, THE CHIEF PSYCHIATRIST EXPLAINS HIS URGENT CALL TO THE CHALLENGERS...

AS YOU KNOW, GENTLEMEN, ONE OF OUR PATIENTS IS THE ONE YOU CALL **MULTI-MAN**. HE IS A VICTIM OF AMNESIA!

DOC, A GUY WITH HIS PAST IS BETTER OFF WITHOUT A MEMORY!

YES, I KNOW SOMETHING ABOUT HIS CRIMINAL RECORD, BUT I WOULD LIKE TO KNOW MORE. THAT'S WHY I CALLED YOU FOUR, WHO ARE THE BEST AUTHORITIES ON THE SUBJECT!

WE FIRST MET **MULTI-MAN** SHORTLY AFTER HE DISCOVERED THE ANCIENT POTION THAT GAVE HIM THE POWER TO CHANGE HIS FORM!



"HE COULDN'T GOVERN THE CHANGES, THOUGH, WHICH OCCURRED ONLY WHEN HE FACED CERTAIN DEATH! WHEN A DEPTH CHARGE EXPLODED UNDER HIM IN THE SEA, HE BECAME A BIRD-MAN AND ESCAPED..."



"THE FINAL FORM HE GAINED FROM THE POTION WAS THAT OF A GIANT BRAIN! HE APPLIED HIS BRILLIANCE TO DISCOVER THE FORMULA FOR CHANGE--GIVING HIM EVEN MORE FANTASTIC FORMS, ALL AT HIS COMMAND!"

HA, HA, HA, HA!



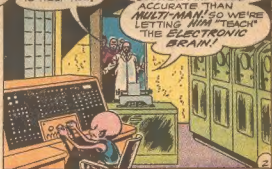
FORTUNATELY, PROF DISCOVERED THE ANTIDOTE FOR **MULTI-MAN**'S FORMULA, AND WE DEFEATED HIM-- BUT NOT BEFORE AN ACCIDENT ROBBED HIM OF HIS MEMORY!

THIS IS PRECISELY THE INFORMATION I NEEDED! NOW COME THIS WAY WHILE I EXPLAIN THE REASON FOR MY CALL!



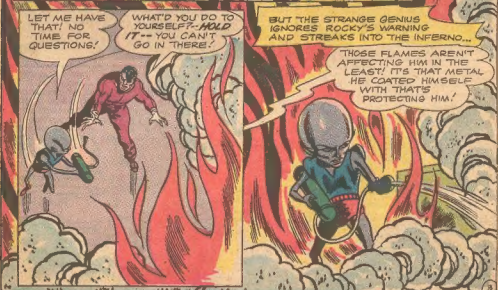
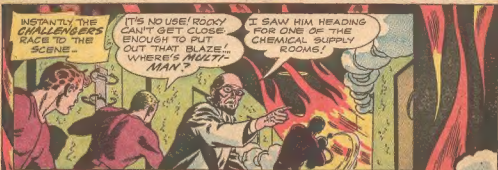
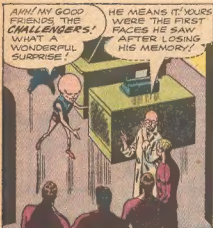
IT'S **MULTI-MAN**-- OPERATING A COMPUTER! SO EVEN A GENIUS LIKE HIM NEEDS AN ELECTRONIC BRAIN TO HELP HIM!

NO--IN SOLVING PROBLEMS, OUR RESEARCH CENTER LEARNED THAT THIS MODERN COMPUTER IS SLOWER AND LESS ACCURATE THAN **MULTI-MAN**! SO WE'RE LETTING HIM "TEACH" THE ELECTRONIC BRAIN!





CHALLENGERS OF THE UNKNOWN





CHALLENGERS OF THE LINKNOWN



AFTER THE THREAT HAS BEEN STILED...

I'D BEEN WORKING ON A HEAT-REFLECTING CHEMICAL TO PROTECT ONE FROM FIRE! IT WASN'T QUITE PERFECTED-- BUT I THOUGHT SAVING THOSE VALUABLE SPECIMENS WAS WORTH THE RISK!

THIS BRINGS ME TO MY REASON FOR ASKING YOU HERE! MAY I SEE YOU CHALLENGERS-- ALONE?

YOU BEGIN TO SEE HOW INVALUABLE **MULTI-MAN** IS? HERE ARE JUST A FEW OF THE REQUESTS WE'VE RECEIVED FROM NATIONS ASKING FOR HIS SERVICES IN SOLVING EMERGENCY PROBLEMS!

BUT WHAT ABOUT THE RISK? WHAT IF HIS MEMORY SHOULD RETURN-- AND HIS CRIMINAL TENDENCIES WITH IT?



THAT'S THE PROBLEM! AMNESIA CAN BE CURED SLOWLY, THROUGH TIME ALONE, OR INSTANTLY, THROUGH SOME SUDDEN SHOCK TO THE BRAIN! THAT'S WHY I WANT YOU MEN TO ACCOMPANY **MULTI-MAN**!

BODYGUARD TO THE WORLD'S BIGGEST EGG-HEAD! MAN, WHAT A JOB!

AND WITHOUT ANY DELAY, THEY FLY OFF, A STRANGE TEAM OF ONE ASTOUNDING GENIUS AND FOUR CHALLENGERS OF THE LINKNOWN...



PROF HALEY - TOP CHEMIST AND DEEP-SEA DIVER

RED RYAN - ELECTRONICS EXPERT AND MOUNTAIN CLIMBER

ACE MORGAN - UNIVERSAL SCIENTIST AND JET PILOT

ROCKY DAVIS - HEAVYWEIGHT WRESTLING CHAMP



AS THEY APPROACH THE SITE OF THEIR FIRST EMERGENCY--

THERE'S YOUR PROBLEM, **MULTI-MAN**! THE MELTING OF HEAVY SNOWS FROM THE MOUNTAINS THREATENS TO OVERFLOW THAT LAKE AND DESTROY THE SURROUNDING VILLAGES!

IF ONLY YOU COULD MAKE THE WATER GO STRAIGHT UP!

HA! IN JEST, YOU HAVE STUMBLER UPON THE PRECISE SOLUTION I HAVE CHOSEN! THE WATER WILL INDEED GO STRAIGHT UP!





CHALLENGERS OF THE UNKNOWN



SOON AFTER LANDING...

THE SUPPLIES YOU RADIOED AHEAD FOR HAVE ARRIVED, **MULTI-MAN**-- THE FOUR BALLOONS AND THE GREAT PLASTIC LENSES!

GOOD! NOW, EACH OF YOU WILL BOARD A BALLOON AND PREPARE TO ASCEND!

THEN, AS THE CHALLENGERS SOAR ALOFT AT THE EXTREMES OF THE LAKE...

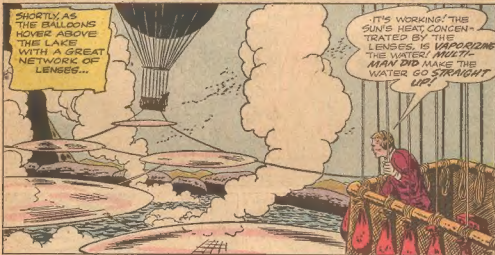
VERY GOOD, GENTLEMEN! YOU WILL RISE TO PRECISELY 1,200 FEET AND HOLD YOUR POSITION!

ROGER! BUT I SURE HOPE THIS AMAZING PLAN WORKS!



SHORTLY, AS THE BALLOONS HOVER ABOVE THE LAKE WITH A GREAT NETWORK OF LENSES...

IT'S WORKING! THE SUN'S HEAT, CONCENTRATED BY THE LENSES, IS VAPORIZING THE WATER! **MULTI-MAN** DID MAKE THE WATER GO STRAIGHT UP!



THEN, WITH THE THREAT OF THE FLOOD ABATED...

THAT WAS A TERRIFIC STUNT, **MULTI-MAN**-- BUT THE NEXT JOB ISN'T ANY EASIER, I WARN YOU!

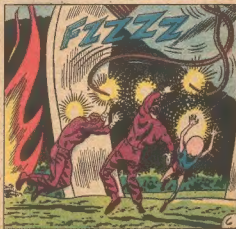
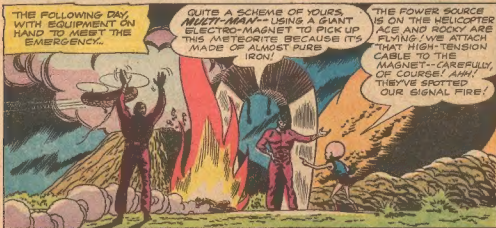
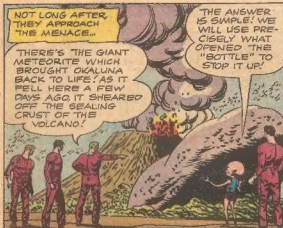
I CAN ONLY TRY MY BEST, PROF!



THREE HOURS LATER, AND TWO THOUSAND MILES AWAY, THEIR JET STREAKS OVER...

OKALUNA VOLCANO! IT WAS DORMANT FOR THREE CENTURIES UNTIL A FANTASTIC ACCIDENT BROUGHT IT TO LIFE, AND NOW IT THREATENS TO ERUPT!







CHALLENGERS OF THE UNKNOWN



ONLY THEIR VERY BRIEF CONTACT WITH THE WIRE SAVES THE CHALLENGER PAIR FROM DEATH-- BUT, AS FOR MULTI-MAN...

ELECTRIC LEADS ARE ATTACHED TO THE MAGNET JUST AS THE OMINOUS RUMBLING'S COMMENCE...

HE MUST HAVE TAKEN THE BIGGEST JOLT OF ALL! HE'S UNCONSCIOUS! NO! HE'S STARTING TO COME TO!

OHHH! WHAT A SHOCK THAT WAS! BUT WE'VE NO TIME TO WASTE! THAT VOLCANO HAS TO BE "CORKED!"



ACE MANEUVERS THE CRAFT OVER THE CRATER AS IT BEGINS TO ERUPT, CUTS THE MAGNET'S CURRENT...

BUL'S-EYE! WE SNUFFED IT OUT! SCORE ONE MORE FOR MULTI-MAN!



SOME DAYS LATER, IN A EUROPEAN CAPITAL, SITE OF THEIR NEXT ASSIGNMENT...

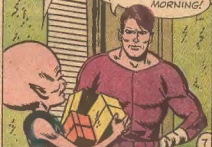
HMM! STRANGE... MULTI-MAN SAID HE WAS DEAD TIRED, BUT HE'S NOT IN HIS ROOM!



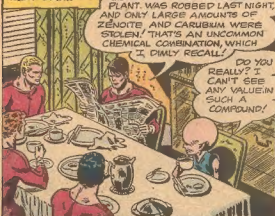
LOOKING FOR ME, PROF?

I WAS TOO KEYED UP TO SLEEP SO I DID SOME SOUVENIR SHOPPING IN THE CITY!

THOUGHT I'D LOOK IN TO SEE IF EVERYTHING WAS OKAY! WELL, SEE YOU IN THE MORNING!



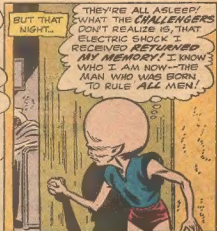
NEXT DAY...



LISTEN TO THIS! A CHEMICAL PLANT WAS ROBBED LAST NIGHT, AND ONLY LARGE AMOUNTS OF ZENOITE AND CARUBUM WERE STOLEN! THAT'S AN UNCOMMON CHEMICAL COMBINATION, WHICH I DIMLY RECALL!

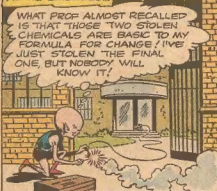
DO YOU REALLY? I CAN'T SEE ANY VALUE IN SUCH A COMPOUND!

BUT THAT NIGHT...

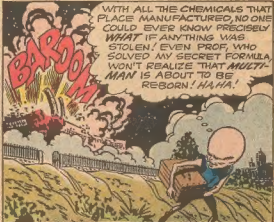


THEY'RE ALL ASLEEP! WHAT THE CHALLENGERS DON'T REALIZE IS, THAT ELECTRIC SHOCK I RECEIVED RETURNED MY MEMORY! I KNOW WHO I AM NOW--THE MAN WHO WAS BORN TO RULE ALL MEN!

IN AN OUTLYING AREA, MULTI-MAN BREAKS INTO ANOTHER COMPANY, AND AS HE EMERGES...

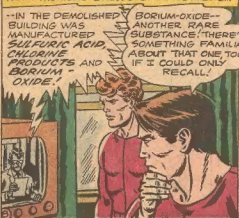


WHAT PROF ALMOST RECALLED IS THAT THOSE TWO STOLEN CHEMICALS ARE BASIC TO MY FORMULA FOR CHANGE! I'VE JUST STOLEN THE FINAL ONE, BUT NOBODY WILL KNOW IT!



WITH ALL THE CHEMICALS THAT PLACE MANUFACTURED, NO ONE COULD EVER KNOW PRECISELY WHAT IF ANYTHING WAS STOLEN! EVEN PROF, WHO SOLVED MY SECRET FORMULA, WON'T REALIZE THAT MULTI-MAN IS ABOUT TO BE REBORN! HAHA!

NEXT MORNING BRINGS STUNNING NEWS...



--IN THE DEMOLISHED BUILDING WAS MANUFACTURED SULFURIC ACID, CHLORINE PRODUCTS AND BORUM-OXIDE!

BORIUM-OXIDE--ANOTHER RARE SUBSTANCE! THERE'S SOMETHING FAMILIAR ABOUT THAT ONE, TOO! IF I COULD ONLY RECALL!

TROUBLE, MEN! MULTI-MAN IS MISSING!



EUREKA--I'VE GOT IT! ZENOITE, CARUBUM AND BORIUM-OXIDE--THE THREE PRINCIPLE CHEMICALS IN MULTI-MAN'S FORMULA FOR CHANGE! YOU SEE WHAT THIS MEANS?

THE NEXT THRILLING CHAPTER CONTINUES ON 3RD PAGE FOLLOWING.



HEALTH MYTHS DEBUNKED!



IT'S A GOOD THING THAT NAIL YOU STEPPED ON WAS A NEW ONE. YOU DON'T HAVE TO SEE A DOCTOR, DICK-- ONLY A RUSTY NAIL IS DANGEROUS!

WRONG, YOUNG MAN! LET ME TAKE A LOOK AT THAT! ANY PUNCTURE WOUND SHOULD BE TAKEN CARE OF!



AS LONG AS THE THING THAT CAUSED THE WOUND TOUCHED DIRT, IT COULD CARRY DANGEROUS INVISIBLE GERMS, LIKE TETANUS-- IT DOESN'T HAVE TO BE A RUSTY OBJECT! THAT'S ONLY ONE OF THE MANY MYTHS ABOUT HEALTH THAT SHOULD BE EXPOSED!



* MANY PEOPLE THINK THAT A GOOD WAY TO TREAT FROSTBITE IS TO RUB THE FROZEN PART WITH SNOW...

"FALSE!" GRADUAL WARMING IS NEEDED--BUT RUBBING WITH SNOW OR ANYTHING ELSE WOULD ONLY DAMAGE MORE TISSUE!



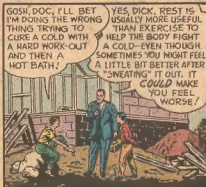
* OR THAT A PIECE OF RAW MEAT SHOULD BE USED TO TREAT A BLACK EYE...

"FALSE!" A COLD COMPRESS MAY MAKE IT FEEL BETTER AND CAN HELP REDUCE SWELLING AT FIRST, BUT A PIECE OF MEAT WON'T AFFECT SWELLING OR DISCOLORATION!



* OR THAT CUTTING OR SHAVING A PERSON'S HAIR MORE OFTEN MAKES IT GROW FASTER...

"FALSE!" THE RATE OF GROWTH OF HAIR IS DETERMINED BY THE HAIR ROOTS OR FOLLICLES BENEATH THE SKIN, BY HEREDITY AND GENERAL HEALTH!



GOSH, DOC, I'LL BET I'M DOING THE WRONG THING TRYING TO CURE A COLD WITH A HARD WORK-OUT AND THEN A HOT BATH!

YES, DICK, REST IS USUALLY MORE USEFUL THAN EXERCISE TO HELP THE BODY FIGHT A COLD--EVEN THOUGH SOMETIMES YOU MIGHT FEEL A LITTLE BIT BETTER AFTER "SWEATING" IT OUT. IT COULD MAKE YOU FEEL WORSE!



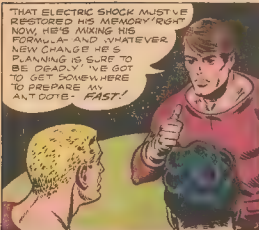
DON'T RELY ON UNSCIENTIFIC MYTHS! LEARN THE RIGHT HABITS-- AND STAY HEALTHY!



CHALLENGERS OF THE UNKNOWN

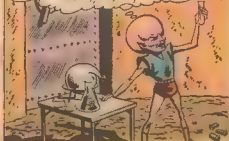


THAT ELECTRIC SHOCK MUST'VE RESTORED HIS MEMORY! RIGHT NOW, HE'S MIXING HIS FORMULA- AND WHATEVER NEW CHANGE HE'S PLANNING IS SURE TO BE DEADLY! I'VE GOT TO GET SOMEWHERE TO PREPARE MY ANTIDOTE- FAST!



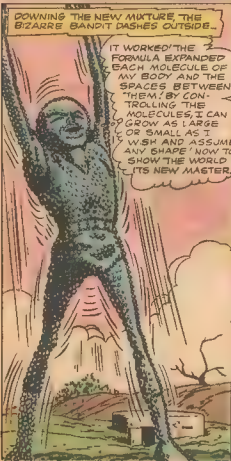
MEANWHILE, IN A WORLD WAR II PILLBOX THAT NOW SERVES AS **MULTI-MAN'S** HIDEOUT...

MY FORMULA FOR CHANGE IS COMPLETE--AND I'VE ADDED A SUBSTANCE THAT WILL GIVE ME MY **GREATEST FORM**! IN A MOMENT I'LL NEED LOTS OF ROOM...HA, HA, HA!



DOWNING THE NEW MIXTURE, THE BIZARRE BANDIT DASHES OUTSIDE...

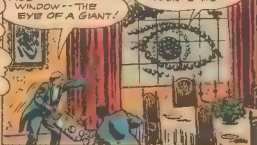
IT WORKED! THE FORMULA EXPANDED EACH MOLECULE OF MY BODY AND THE SPACES BETWEEN THEM! BY CONTROLLING THE MOLECULES, I CAN GROW AS LARGE OR SMALL AS I WISH AND ASSUME ANY SHAPE! NOW TO SHOW THE WORLD ITS NEW MASTER!



SHORTLY, IN A CASTLE ON THE NEARBY SEACOAST...

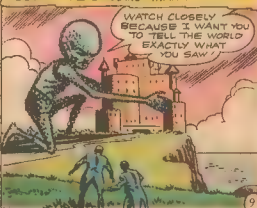
EVERYTHING MUST BE READY WHEN THE COUNT AND COUNTLESS ARRIVE--AGGH! AT THE WINDOW--THE EYE OF A GIANT!

HA, HA, HA! RUN LITTLE PEOPLE! FLEE BEFORE YOUR HOUSE COMES DOWN AROUND YOUR EARS!



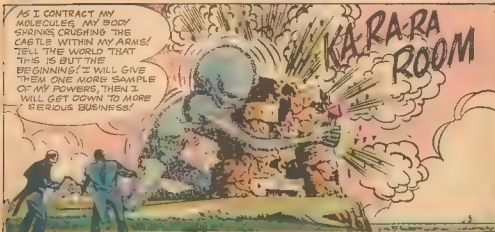
NO SOONER DO THE FRANTIC SERVANTS DESERT THE BUILDING THAN...

WATCH CLOSELY BECAUSE I WANT YOU TO TELL THE WORLD EXACTLY WHAT YOU SAW!





CHALLENGERS OF THE UNKNOWN



AS I CONTRACT MY MOLECULES, MY BODY SHRINKS, CRUSHING THE CASTLE WITHIN MY ARMS! TELL THE WORLD THAT THIS IS BUT THE BEGINNING! I WILL GIVE THEM ONE MORE SAMPLE OF MY POWERS, THEN I WILL GET DOWN TO MORE "SERIOUS BUSINESS."

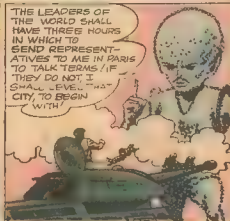
BEFORE MULTI-MAN'S PLAN CAN BE RELAYED, A MILITARY UNIT STATIONED NEARBY ATTEMPTS TO DESTROY THE FANTASTIC MENACE.

AM I SEEING THINGS—OR DID THAT SHELL PASS THROUGH HIS BODY?

OF COURSE, LITTLE TIN SOLDIER! MY MOLECULES MERELY SEPARATED TO AVOID IT! NOW THAT YOU SEE MY INVULNERABILITY, LISTEN WELL TO MY DEMANDS!

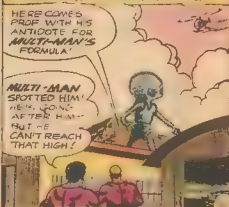


THE LEADERS OF THE WORLD SHALL HAVE THREE HOURS IN WHICH TO SEND REPRESENTATIVES TO ME IN PARIS TO TALK TERMS! IF THEY DO NOT, I SHALL "LEVEL" THIS CITY, TO BEGIN WITH!



BUT MOMENTS AFTER THE ULTIMATUM HAS BEEN ISSUED, AT A NEARBY AIRFIELD,

HERE COMES PROF WITH HIS ANTIDOTE FOR MULTI-MAN'S FORMULA!



MULTI-MAN SPOTTED HIM! HE'S GOING AFTER HIM! BUT HE CAN'T REACH THAT HIGH!



CHALLENGERS OF THE UNKNOWN



BUT

GOOD GRIEF!
HE JUST
STRETCHED
OUT AND
GRABBED
PROF'S
'COPPER.'
HE CAN
COMMAND HIS
MOLECULES
TO DO
ANYTHING!

DID YOU
THINK I'D
FORGOTTEN
YOU ARE THE
ONLY MAN
WHO CAN
COUNTERACT
MY POWERS?
IT'S A PITY--
YOU'LL NEVER
GET TO USE
YOUR FORMULA!

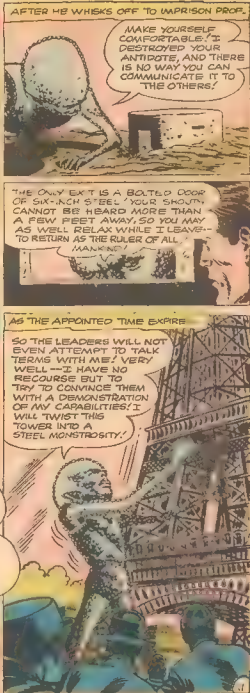
AFTER HE WHISKS OFF TO IMPRISON PROF.

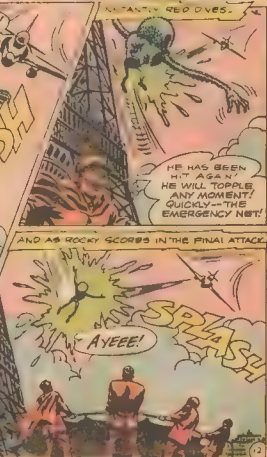
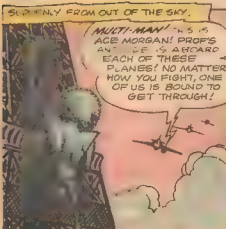
MAKE YOURSELF
COMFORTABLE. I
DESTROYED YOUR
ANTIDOTE, AND THERE
IS NO WAY YOU CAN
COMMUNICATE IT TO
THE OTHERS!

THE ONLY EXIT IS A BOLTED DOOR
OF SIX-INCH STEEL. YOUR SHOUTS
CANNOT BE HEARD MORE THAN
A FEW FEET AWAY, SO YOU MAY
AS WELL RELAX WHILE I LEAVE--
TO RETURN AS THE RULER OF ALL
MANKIND!

AS THE APPOINTED TIME EXPIRES

SO THE LEADERS WILL NOT
EVEN ATTEMPT TO TALK
TERMS WITH ME! VERY
WELL--I HAVE NO
RECOURSE BUT TO
TRY TO CONVINCE THEM
WITH A DEMONSTRATION
OF MY CAPABILITIES! I
WILL TWIST THIS
TOWER INTO A
STEEL MONSTROSITY!





LATER WHEN THE CHALLENGERS VISIT MULTI-MAN, NOW MULTI-NUMBERED...

I-I STILL DON'T UNDERSTAND! HOW COULD PROF HAVE GOTTEN HIS FORMULA TO YOU WHEN HE WAS LOCKED UP?

THROUGH ONE OF THE OLDEST FORMS OF COMMUNICATION -- WITH A MODERN TWIST! AFTER YOU GRABBED HIM WE TRAILED YOUR GIANT FIGURE IN A CAR.



"WHEN YOU DISAPPEARED BEHIND A MOUNTAIN, WE LOST YOU! WE STOPPED, UNCERTAIN WHERE TO GO, BUT PROF WASN'T DUE."

GOOD THING MULTI-MAN DIDN'T REALIZE MY CIGARETTE CASE IS A ROCKET LABORATORY! A LITTLE TITANIUM TETRACHLORIDE WILL GIVE ME LOTS OF SMOKE! HOPE I CAN CONTROL IT!



HE RELEASED THE TITANIUM THROUGH A NARROW GUN SLOT, AND HALF A MILE OFF..

LOOK, FELLERS! THOSE SMOKE PUFFS! THEY SEEM TO BE SIGNALS--

SURE --THE LARGE PUFFS ARE DASHES, THE SMALL ONES, DOTS! A-C-E! IT'S PROF, TELLING US WHERE HE IS, ACE!



WHEN WE REACHED HIM, HE TOLD US THE FORMULA, WHICH WE RUSHED TO A LABORATORY! YOU WERE AN INVULNERABLE GANT FOR A WHILE, BUT THE BIGGER THEY ARE, THE HARDER THEY FALL!

NO WALLS OR BARS CAN IMPRISON MY GENIUS NEXT TIME, I SHALL NOT UNDERESTIMATE YOU FOUR!



A COMPLETE NOVEL IN THE NEXT ISSUE, FEATURING A SECRET OF THE CHALLENGERS' ORIGIN, UNKNOWN EVEN TO THEM!

The End

ADVERTISEMENT

HOLD THIS PICTURE ABOUT 8 INCHES FROM YOU AT EYE-LEVEL. THEN MOVE IT SLOWLY TOWARDS YOU, KEEPING YOUR EYES ON THE DOTTED LINE, AND SEE WHAT THE BOYS AND GIRLS IN AMERICA LOVE TO DO.



YOUR EYES MAY PLAY TRICKS.... BUT NOT YOUR TASTE!

try a

POP

with its Delicious TOOTSIE ROLL Center!

"Best Lick on a Stick"



the only POP with the Tootsie Roll center!

CHALLENGERS' MAIL CHUTE



Dear Challengers: Three cheers for the world's four greatest adventurers, the CHALLENGERS OF THE UNKNOWN, but why is Rocky's hair colored blue? Dan Guaraldi, San Jose, Calif.

Merely artistic license!

* * *

PEN PALS' POSTAL PICKINGS: To inquiries made by Max Bromley of Orlando, Fla., John Gnamierowski of Thompsonville, Conn., Paul Gambaccini of Westport, Conn., and a hundred others, the CHALLENGERS' origin will be incorporated in a thrilling three-part adventure, which will occupy the complete April-May issue.

... Aside to Tommy Jones of Aberdeen, Md.: Before illustrating our favorite foursome, Bob Brown contributed to HOUSE OF MYSTERY, and, for a while, drew the *Vigilante*. Maybe Dr. Gruner will return, and we're still trying to work out a feasible plan to award original artwork for the best comments. . . . Steven Goeting, Moundridge, Kans.; Peter Kasperek, Kenosha, Wis.; Marc Meyers, North Merrick, N.Y.; Michael Kenny, Kenmore, N.Y.; Joe Devine, Beacon, N.Y.; Paul De Norio, Mastic Beach, N.Y., among others, ask that we publish more than six times a year, perhaps issue an Annual. Maybe we will!

Thanks for your kind words to G. B. Love, Miami; Jay Sheriff, Windsor, Ontario; David Lawrence, Birmingham, Ala.; J. C. Werryes, Eureka, Calif.; Steve Hanson, Dubuque, Iowa; and Randy Shumake, La Puente, Calif. . . . Oops! Sorry, La Mese Pukanecz of Allentown, Pa. The colorist's brush slipped; Ace's shoulder should have been flesh-colored. . . . If you followed the CHALLENGERS for a while, Steve Turner of Minot, N.D., you'd know that Prof is the team's topnotch scientist. . . . Will the boys be on television, asks Woodrow Foster from Thomaston, Ga.? There's always the possibility! . . .

That sequence in "Four Roads to Doomsday," in which two of the CHALLENGERS were blind while the other pair were lame set a new high standard for favorable comment. . . . David Sebastian of the 56th W.R. Sq., writing from Japan, via a San Francisco APO, has a kindred feeling towards Bob Brown because he was stationed in

San Angelo, his home town and in San Antonio, where he was born. He sums up the feelings of his fellow fans by adding, ". . . You can't beat the CHALLENGERS. They have solid, imaginative stories uniquely fitted to Brown's exceptionally good art."

* * *

Dear Challengers: What is the most overwhelming thing about the Antarctic? The snow-blinding landscape, penetrating wind, or the terrifying loneliness? Patsy DeMarco, Washington, D.C. *We would say it was the wind, which over a period of a year was recorded by instruments at 50 miles an hour, making it the windiest place on earth. The comparable average for the U.S. is nine and a half miles per hour. According to Frank Debenham, who challenged the unknown of the Antarctic wasteland and summarized his findings in a book last year, when the wind dies down for a time, the Antarctic silence is unforgettable. "It is so utter, so complete," he reported, "that one can hear a man talking half a mile away, or the tiny crackle of one's breath freezing, or the high piping of a seal miles out on the ice."* For more information, see the CHALLENGERS' second letter column in the Oct.-Nov. issue.

* * *

Dear Challengers: I notice that you seldom use firearms, but can you tell me when pistols first were used? Jerry Bleecker, El Paso. *They were introduced in Pistoia, Italy, in 1540. Because they fired only a single shot, requiring time to be reloaded, they didn't become popular until they were combined with a supplementary weapon, an ax, sword or dagger, for use at close range. Because of their size, however, demand for them rose when they could be concealed in bundles of table silverware, canes, watches, pens, etc. The Nazis perfected a pistol so small, it could be hidden in a soldier's belt buckle. As he pretended to adjust the buckle, two miniature barrels swung into place, each firing a .32 calibre bullet.*

Address all communications to CHALLENGERS OF THE UNKNOWN, National Periodical Publications, 575 Lexington Ave., N.Y. 22, N.Y.

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of WAR...** TO TUG AT
EVERYONE'S
HEART...

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CHALLENGERS OF THE UNKNOWN



CLAYBURN! YOU CAN BE
KILLED! GET BACK
IN HERE!

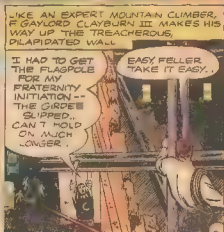
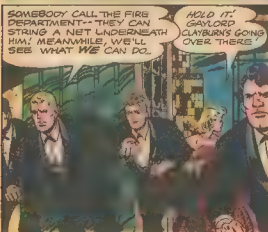
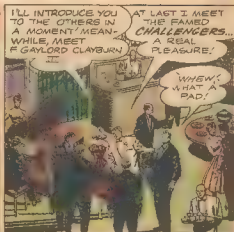
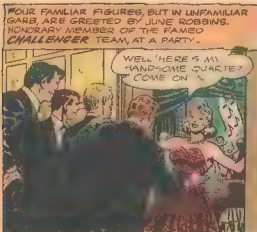
YOU FORGET, GENTLEMEN--
I'M LIVING ON BORROWED
TIME!

TO THE WORLD'S MOST DARING TEAM COMES A MAN WHO CAN PERFORM BRAVE FEATS, WHOSE COURAGE IS UNLIMITED, AND WHO, LIKE THE CHALLENGERS THEMSELVES, LIVES ON BORROWED TIME! HE COMES MAKING AN UNUSUAL REQUEST-- TO SHARE THEIR ADVENTURES, THEIR HEROICS, THEIR COUNTLESS DEATH-DEFYING MOMENTS! FOR HE WANTS TO PROVE THAT HE CAN BE...

The FIFTH CHALLENGER



CHALLENGERS OF THE UNKNOWN





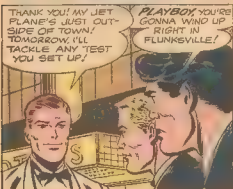
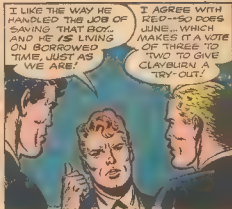
CHALLENGERS OF THE UNKNOWN



CLAYBURN COMPLETES THE SENSATIONAL RESCUE.



CHALLENGERS OF THE UNKNOWN



TAKING OVER THE JET'S CONTROLS, CLAYBURN CLIMBS STRAIGHT FOR THE HEAVENS.

...THEN FLIPS OVER INTO A SERIES OF ROLLS.

...FOLLOWED BY A NUMBER OF ACROBATIC FEATS BEFORE DIVING SCREECHINGLY TOWARD THE GROUND.



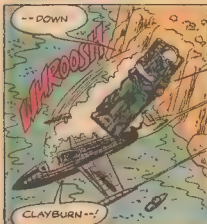


CHALLENGERS OF THE UNKNOWN



AS THE JET POWERS ITS WAY OUT OVER THE WATER...

ACE--DOWN THERE! THE GIRL SEEMS TO BE IN DISTRESS! TAKE OVER, WILL YOU?
I'M GOING--

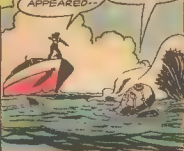


FREED BY HIS EJECTION SEAT, CLAYBURN PLUMMETS INTO THE SHARK-INFESTED WATERS UNDER HIS BILLLOWING CHUTE...



MY HUSBAND'S DOWN THERE... HE SHOULDN'T HAVE MUCH AIR LEFT! THESE SHARKS SUDDENLY APPEARED--

I'LL SEE IF I CAN BRING HIM UP! BE READY FOR US TO COME ABOARD!



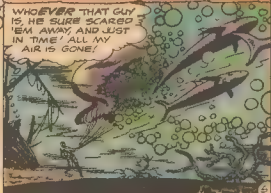
DRAWING HIS CHUTE BEHIND HIM, CLAYBURN DIVES...

HANG ON, MISTER--MAYBE WE CAN GIVE THESE KILLERS A GOOD SCARE



DARTING BETWEEN THE SEA BEASTS AND THE SKIN DIVER, HE MANIPULATES THE CHUTE'S CORDS, RELEASING A FLOOD OF AIR BUBBLES.

WHOEVER THAT GUY IS, HE SURE SCARED 'EM AWAY, AND JUST IN TIME! ALL MY AIR IS GONE!





CHALLENGERS OF THE UNKNOWN



WITH THE DIVER SAFELY BACK ON HIS BOAT, CLAYBURN MAKES HIS WAY TO SHORE--

"I'VE GOT TO ADMIT IT, HE HANDLED THE JET LIKE A VETERAN--"

AND HE SHOWED QUICK THINKING IN THE WATER--
RELEASING A BUBBLE BARRAGE TO FRIGHTEN OFF THOSE MAN-KILLERS!



SO YOU CAN CLIMB A MOUNTAIN, FLY A JET AN' MAKE LIKE A FISH' BUT WHAT ABOUT HANDLIN' YOUR MITTS, PLAYBOY? THAT'S WHERE YOU TAKE ME ON!

HOLD IT! A NEWS BULLETIN COMING OVER THE RADIO!



".. A COMMERCIAL AIRLINER HAS JUST REPORTED A GIANT EAGLE MAKING PASSES AS IF ATTEMPTING TO SNATCH IT FROM THE SKES.."



WITH ACE AT THE CONTROLS, ALL JET TOWARD THE SITE WHERE THE FANTASTIC BIRD WAS SIGHTED..

HEY! GET A LOAD O' PLAYBOY! HE BROUGHT HIS UNIFORM--

I ANTICIPATED BECOMING A CHALLENGER-- SO I HAD IT TAILORED N ADVANCE!



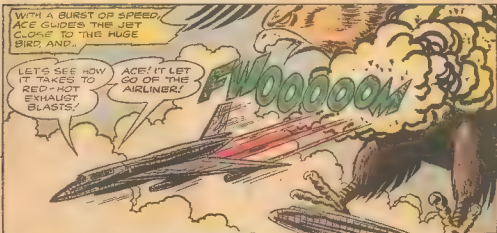
THEN, AS THE JET REACHES THE AREA--

FOR THE LUVVA PETE! THERE IT IS--AND IT'S GOT THE AIRLINER!





CHALLENGERS OF THE UNKNOWN



WITH A BURST OF SPEED,
ACE GUIDES THE JET
CLOSE TO THE HUGE
BIRD, AND...

LET'S SEE HOW
IT TAKES TO
RED-HOT
EXHAUST
BLASTS!

ACE! IT LET
GO OF THE
AIRLINER!

FWOOOOON



YEAH--
BUT NOW
IT'S GOT
US!

I'LL HAVE
TO CUT
THE
ENGINES!

VR-R-LUMP
VR-R-RUMP



AT LEAST THE
AIRLINER WAS ABLE
TO ESCAPE--HEY!
LOOK UP AHEAD! WE'RE
BEING FLOWN TO WHAT
LOOKS LIKE A MOUNTAIN
HIDEOUT!

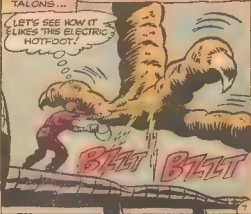
WHILE THE OTHERS STARE AHEAD, CLAYBURN SLIPS OUT THE HATCH, CLAMBERS ATOP THE CRAFT.

CLAYBURN! YOU
CAN BE KILLED
GET BACK IN
HERE!

YOU FORGET GENTLE-
MEN--I'M LIVING ON
BORROWED TIME!

AS HE JABS TWO WIRES AT THE GREAT
TALONS...

LET'S SEE HOW IT
LIKES THIS ELECTRIC
HOTFOOT!



BZZT BZZT

CRIPPLED BY ITS CAPTOR'S FIERCE CLUTCH, THE JET IS FORCED TO CRASH LAND

NEAT LITTLE CONTRAPTION EH? IT'S A BATTERY-OPERATED DEVICE I ALWAYS CARRY FOR--

YOU MADE A MISTAKE THIS TIME, PLAYBOY! WE DIDN'T WANT TO BE FREE! WE WANTED TO BE TAKEN TO THAT HIDEOUT!

THAT MEANS I FAILED IN MY FIRST ATTEMPT TO BE A CHALLENGER!

WHAT YOU DO "TOOK COURAGE."

IT'S GETTING DARK NOW! MUCH WE CAN DO LET'S MAKE CAMP! IN THE MORNING WE'LL TRY TO FIND THE HIDEOUT, AND LEARN MORE ABOUT THAT EAGLE!



BUT DURING THE NIGHT, WHILE THE OTHERS SLEEP, CLAYBURN RUNS OFF-- UNTIL HOURS LATER, AS HE SCOUTS THE SLOPES...

THERE'S THE HIDE-OUT! NOW I MADE UP FOR MY MISTAKE! I FOUND A TRAIL THAT LEADS STRAIGHT TO IT! I'D BETTER GET BACK NOW--IT LI...
"CAN BE DOWN"



HOURS LATER

I MADE THIS MAP OF THE TRAIL TO THE HIDEOUT-- BUT I CAN LEAD YOU THERE!

NOTHING DOING-- YOU MUST BE PRETTY TIRED! BESIDES, SOMEONE HAS TO STAY HERE WITH JUNE! WE CAN FIND OUR WAY WITH YOUR MAP!



SOME TIME AFTER, THE CHALLENGERS ARE CLIMBING THE CRAGGY TRAIL WHEN SUDDENLY...

FLAP FLAP FLAP

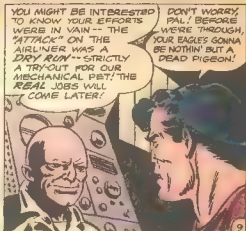
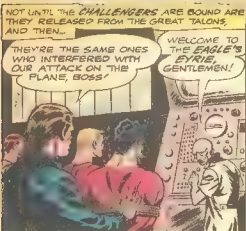
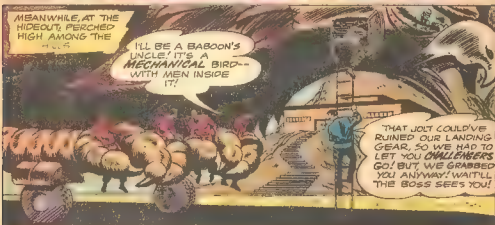
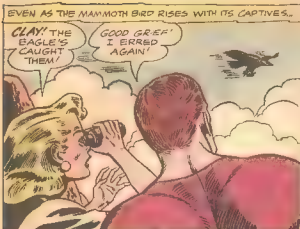
BLAZES! IT'S THE GIANT EAGLE!



AND BEFORE THEY CAN...

WELL, WE ASKED FOR IT! WE WERE FIRST CLASS KOOKS FOR FOLLOWING THAT GUY'S MAP!







CHALLENGERS OF THE UNKNOWN



SAVE YOUR BOASTS, BIG MAN! YOU SAW HOW OUR PET EASILY HANDLED YOUR JET-- IT CAN HANDLE LARGER PLANES AS WELL! WE'LL PULL THE MOST SPECTACULAR ROBBERIES IN THE SKY... OPERATING THE EAGLE WITH INSTRUMENTS ABOARD, OR...



...CONTROLLING IT RIGHT FROM THIS PANEL--

SOMEONE'S APPROACHING! SEE WHO IT IS!



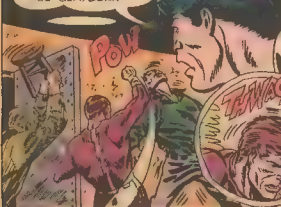
AS THE DOOR IS CAUTIOUSLY OPENED, A ONE-MAN TYHOON SWEEPS IN-- F. GAYLORD CLAYBURN III!

ANOTHER CHALLENGER! GET 'IM!



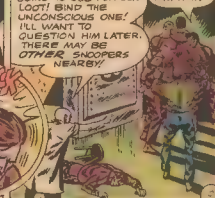
I'LL SAY ONE THING FOR PLAYBOY! HE CAN SURE USE HIS MITTS! MAN, IF WE COULD ONLY GET FREE!

WATCH OUT BEHIND 'OL CLAYBURN--



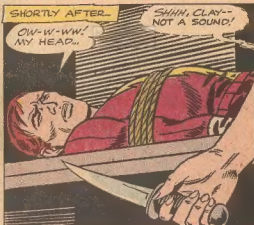
LOCK THOSE FOUR IN THE VAULT WE'RE GOING TO USE FOR OUR LOOT! BIND THE UNCONSCIOUS ONE! I'LL WANT TO QUESTION HIM LATER. THERE MAY BE OTHER SNOOPERS NEARBY!

WELL, HE TRIED, ANYWAY!





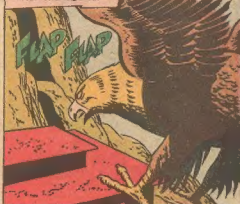
CHALLENGERS OF THE UNKNOWN



MINUTES LATER, THE GIANT BIRD BEGINS TO HUM AND WHIR, THEN...



IT CIRCLES SLOWLY AND HEADS FOR THE HIDEOUT...



MIGHTY TALONS SEIZE THE ROOF AND PULL BACK, WRENCHING IT LOOSE...

WHAT IN BLAZES IS GOIN' ON?



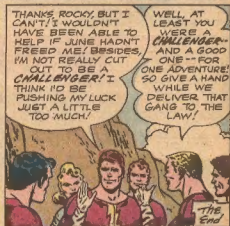
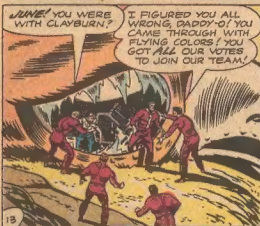
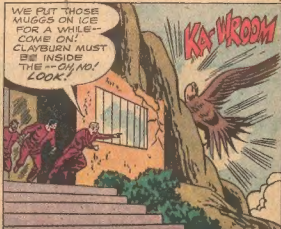
BOSS! THE EAGLE'S GONE WILD BY ITSELF!

SOMEONE'S INSIDE THE CRAFT! GET OUT OF MY WAY! I MUST REACH THE CONTROL BOARD!



COME ON-- HERE'S OUR CHANCE!





STATEMENT REQUIRED BY THE ACT OF AUGUST 24, 1912, AS AMENDED BY THE ACTS OF MARCH 3, 1933, JULY 2, 1946 AND JUNE 11, 1960 (74 STAT. 208) SHOWING THE OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT, AND CIRCULATION OF CHALLENGERS OF THE UNKNOWN, published bi-monthly at Sparta, Illinois, for October 1, 1962.

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J. S. Liebowitz, Business Manager

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 20th day of September, 1962.

Daniel Epstein, Notary Public
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